565 business and industrial magnates, 2) the middle class, comprising teachers, clerks, military officers, independent educated farmers, writers, artists, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc., 3) the workers, who in turn are divided into skilled and unskilled workers. The businessmen who became rich overnight in the years previous to or immediately following World War I were not considered as belonging to the higher classes. Eduard Vilde has written a character study of a member of the nouveau riches in his famous

• [875] comedy Pisuhänd. On the other hand, university professors enjoyed a high social position; they belonged to the upper middle class even though their salaries were not princely.

The middle class was by far the biggest class.

555 As in any democratic society, social mobility between the classes was extensive, and Estonian

873 and study groups, conferences, education and literature weeks, instruction for libraries, country theaters, etc., and it tried to encourage the production of original plays by organizing play contests.

871 [645] All Estonian schools were under the direction of the Ministry of Education, and the supervision of teaching methods in these schools was carried on by chief-inspectors or by school superintendents. The superintendent and the school council (much like our own PTA) were responsible for the internal management of each school.

875 The training of elementary school teachers was carried out in teachers' seminaries which operated free of charge and, after the year 1937, offered a four-year course beyond the junior high school level. High school teachers had to

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

875 be graduates of the university and, in addition, were required to receive professional training in the one-year didactical-methodological seminaries run by the university.

874 The most important institution of higher education in Estonia was the old Tartu University. Higher technical education could be acquired, beginning with the year 1920, at the Technical Institute at Tallinn, this name being changed to Tallinn Technical University in 1937. In 1939 there were 2,689 students enrolled at Tartu and 481 at Tallinn. Higher education in fine arts was given by the Pallas Art School at Tartu, a private school with a six-year course; Tallinn Conservatory which offered a complete advanced course in music; the Higher Music School at Tartu, a private school; and four music schools in other towns.